

60,427-619; 2004P02737US

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 19-26 remain pending in the application including independent claims 1, 7, and 26. Claims 13-18 have been cancelled.

The amendment to claim 1 is not related to any rejection or objection set forth in the present official action. Claim 1 has solely been amended to provide proper antecedent basis.

The examiner has withdrawn the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based on Bassi (US 4386949). Claims 1-12 and 19-26 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based on either Mailey (US 5333965) or Hill (US 5628533).

In applicant's prior response, applicant set forth several arguments indicating why Mailey and Hill did not anticipate the claims. The examiner has not responded to any of these arguments. In the "Claim Rejections" section of the present office action, the examiner has copied the Mailey and Hill rejections from the previous office action dated May 26, 2005. Further, in the "Response to Amendment" section of the present office action, the examiner has again copied this same language from the "Claims Rejections" section. Thus, the examiner has not provided any explanation or counter arguments to respond to applicant's arguments set forth in the Amendment filed on August 19, 2005. The only arguments provided by the examiner are those originally set forth in the office action dated May 26, 2005.

Further, applicant requested that the examiner provide some explanation as to where the features of the dependent claims, i.e. claims 2-6, 8-12, and 19-25, were shown in Mailey and Hill. The examiner still has not provided any explanation of where the features of these claims are taught. The examiner has failed to provide a *prima facie* case of anticipation for these

60,427-619; 2004P02737US

claims. Applicant, again, respectfully requests that the examiner provide some explanation of where the features of the dependent claims are disclosed by Mailey and Hill.

As such, applicant respectfully asserts that neither Mailey nor Hill disclose the claimed invention. Claim 1 requires that the attachment member have a cylindrical body portion that extends to a distal end having a retention member with a plurality of flanges spaced apart from one another, where the flanges extend out radially from the cylindrical body portion.

The examiner argues that plunger portion 25 corresponds to the claimed attachment member 25, however, component 25 in Mailey clearly does not have a cylindrical body portion. Figure 1 clearly shows that plunger 25 has a rectangular-shaped body.

Further, component 25 does not extend to a distal end that has a retention member with a plurality of flanges as defined in the claims. The examiner argues that Mailey discloses a retention member 26 with flanges 20, 22 that correspond to the claimed retention member, however, these elements do not correspond to the structure defined in the claims. Figure 1 shows that element 22 is a support guide 22 with a guide channel 30, and that element 20 is a locking member 20 of plastic part 26 that has a single lip. Figure 1 clearly does not show any type of retention member that is comprised of multiple flanges.

Finally, the retention member in Mailey clearly does not have an arcuate surface as defined in the claims. None of the examiner's elements 20, 22, 26 include any type of arcuate surface. Applicant's assertion is fully supported by Figures 1-2 of Mailey. Thus, for the many reasons set forth above, applicant asserts that Mailey does not anticipate the claimed invention.

Hill also does not disclose an attachment member with a cylindrical shape. The examiner argues that Hill discloses a body portion 42 with a retention member 44 with a plurality of

60,427-619; 2004P02737US

flanges 47. Figure 1 clearly shows that the latch 40 does not have a cylindrical body member. Figure 1 of Hill discloses a latch 40 with a flat, planar body shape. Further, the latch 40 does not have retention members with arcuate surfaces as defined in the claims.

The examiner admits that Mailey and Hill do not disclose an attachment member having a cylindrical shape. The examiner also admits that these references do not disclose flanges having an arcuate surface. However, the examiner argues that mere changes in shape without affecting the function of the part would have been an obvious design modification. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant's invention as defined in the claims provides beneficial features that are improvements over prior art structures. As described at paragraph [21] of the subject application:

The cylindrical body portion 22 defines a center 32 with the flanges 28 extending out radially away from the center 32. Each of the flanges 28 has a base 34 that extends out to a tip 36. Preferably, the flanges 28 are narrower at the base 34 than at the tip 36. The tips 36 preferably form an arcuate surface 38. The arcuate surface 38 facilitates push in force and helps accommodate for any mis-alignments between mating components.

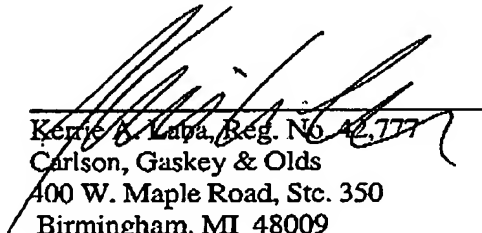
Thus, as neither Mailey nor Hill disclose the features set forth in claim 1, neither Mailey nor Hill can anticipate claim 1. For similar reasons Mailey and Hill do not anticipate the remaining claims.

Applicant asserts that all claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an indication of such.

60,427-619; 2004P02737US

It is believed that no additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,


Kerrie A. Lapa, Reg. No. 42,777
Carlson, Gaskey & Olds
400 W. Maple Road, Ste. 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360

Dated: December 21, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (571) 273-8300, on December 21, 2005.


Laura Combs